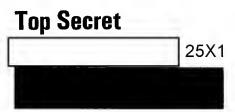
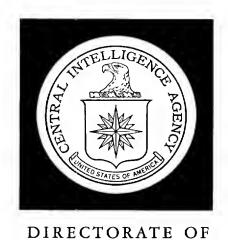
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South Vietnam: There appears to be a mood of discouragement within government circles over the regime's inability to deal effectively with issues causing growing popular discontent. Corruption is widespread among high-ranking South Vietnamese military officers, but President Thieu must nevertheless have the support of the military establishment to remain in office, and he appears to face a virtually hopeless task as he seeks to reassure the public. many South Vietnamese regard the government's reliance on heavy-handed police methods as inexcusable and a sign of weakness. Meanwhile, the police are discouraged about the government's failure to back them up in their handling of demonstrators. Their morale may suffer further from a recent government admission that students accused of treason had been tortured during interrogation. Justice Ministry officials have said that four police officials are

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ministries

being charged in the case.

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of confidence, he is probably also discouraged about the general outlook. He has recently registered strong disappointment in the performance of some key

Although President Thieu tries to present an air

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